

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 15, 18, and 19 are amended. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 13 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 15, and 18 because of informalities. In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended claims 1, 15, and 18 in order to correct the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell (U.S. Patent 6,083,106) in view of Yamazaki (U.S. Patent 5,547,382);

claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent 6,522,037);

claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view Duignan (U.S. Patent 7,264,099);

claims 13, 14, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell and Yamazaki, and further in view of Tosaki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,989,123);

claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki and Lee et al., and further in view of Clarkson (U.S. Patent 6,122,991);

claims 15, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDowell, Yamazaki, and Lee et al.; and

claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki and Duignan and further in view of McDowell.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 13

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"a frame body having a cylindrical portion and at least two main frames,

wherein said steering handle mechanism is mounted at upper portions of the cylindrical portion and the connection shaft is disposed midway between and is supported by lower portions of the at least two main frames".

In addition, independent claim 13 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

"a frame portion including a cylindrical portion into which the handle shaft portion is inserted, and first to third main frames connected at equal angular intervals from left, right, and front sides the cylindrical portion, the first to third main frames for supporting said steering handle shaft portion".

By contrast, as can be seen in McDowell, FIG. 4, this document merely discloses a support post 32 extending downward from a rear side of collar 35, and steering wheel input device 28 and right 21 and left 22 telescoping arm members (25, 26) connected to outer ends of cross member 27 which extends horizontally in a width direction of the simulator. None of these elements teaches or suggests the subject matter set forth in either of claims 1 or 13, as amended herein.

Yamazaki was cited merely to disclose a brake pedal and gear change pedal, and as such, cannot make up for the deficiencies of McDowell.

Tosaki et al. was cited in the rejection of claim 13 merely to recite a centering mechanism which provides a reaction force.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 13 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including McDowell, Yamazaki, and Tosaki et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claims 5, 6, and 7

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 5 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

wherein recesses have flat inner faces that oppose each other for engaging with left and right flat sides of the vibrator.

In addition, independent claim 6 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

wherein the hollow space includes two flat inner faces that oppose each other for engaging with left and right flat sides of the vibrator.

Further, independent claim 7 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

wherein the recesses have flat inner faces opposing each other for engaging with left and right flat sides of the vibrator.

Support for the novel features of claims 5-7 can be seen in the application as originally filed, for example, in FIGS. 9-11.

The Examiner concedes that Yamazaki et al. does not disclose a tapered bracket. As for Lee et al., this document merely discloses upper and lower cylindrical cases 23, 20 having cylindrical recesses.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 5-7 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamazaki in view of Lee et al.

Therefore, independent each of independent claims 5-7 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a riding simulation system, including

the click generating means comprises a single ball member and triangular cover member having a single rectangular hole portion formed therein in which the single ball member is engaged when said gear change pedal is in a center position.

The Examiner concedes that Yamazaki fails to disclose a click generating means. As for Duignan, this document merely discloses a oval-shaped detent plate 32 with multiple round detents 76 for receiving multiple detent balls 72.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Yamazaki in view of Duignan.

Therefore, independent claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 12, 18, and 19 have been amended.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030(direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



James M. Slattery

Reg. No. 28,380

P. O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

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